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Assimilation in the School

By Vaughan MacCaughy

In the typical American public school on the mainland, it has been found through long experience in many regions that an enrollment of 80-85% of American children from English-speaking homes can assimilate 20% of non-speaking-English children from the homes of foreign born parents.

Eighty per cent of English-speaking children can "assimilate" 15% of non-English-speaking children.

In Hawaii these conditions are reversed, and in the public schools there is far less than 15% of English-speaking children from the homes of American-born (or Hawaiian-born) parents.

Instead of the "American" children assimilating the children of the immigrants, the great danger is that the preponderant mass of children of foreign-born parents shall "assimilate" the "American." This unique condition, which has no parallel in any other part of the United States, has led to the withdrawal of most of the children of American-born parents into private schools.

Hawaii's numerous private schools have owed their development, in no small measure, to the overwhelming numbers of children of foreign-born parentage in the public schools.

The remedy to this remarkable and paradoxical situation, (whereby the children of American-born parents are penalized by public school attendance) is the recognition of the English-speaking school as the standard, normal type of school. Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart ably expounded this concept during his recent visit to Hawaii. Under this system the children of American-born parents have a prior claim to public school education over the children of foreign-born parents. The Territory should provide adequately for both groups; but, as a matter of simple justice, the children of American-born parents should not be crowded out of the public schools.

The Kids and the Bonus

The wave of industrial enthusiasm that flowed so strong for the month of July and carried so many kids, many of them of a very tender age, out into the fields to work, has weakened very materially for August.

With most commendable patience and perseverance the youngsters stuck to it through July manfully. The bonus was ahead of them and lured them on. Some of them weakened at the close of the 20 days, when the bonus was assured but most of them stuck to it for the full month.

But with a new month ahead of them, and the vacation flitting rapidly away, a great many concluded that they had had enough.

In some cases their parents put in an effective veto against any more getting up before daylight, and coming home in the afternoon, a sight to behold—with laundry prices away up in the sky, and stopped the enterprise.

Now the youngsters are busy figuring out what the bonus plus the basic wage will come to,—which is a difficult problem since both elements are more or less uncertain. The only thing they are reasonably sure of is that they will be rich.

Sugar Fortunes In Florida

Stimulated by the scarcity and high prices of sugar there is a scheme in hand to convert the vast areas of the Florida Everglades into sugar fields.

A large part of the southern part of the state, to the extent of millions of acres, is a low lying swamp, pent up by a limestone rim of higher level, which acts as a retaining wall. The consequence is that for months at a time, after the summer rains, the whole country is under water. The natural drainage outlet is far away and the flow thither so slow that the country is one eternal swamp, save certain limited island areas of high ground.

It is now proposed to cut through this retaining dyke by means of immense ditches at suitable paces, thus furnish easy and rapid drainage for large adjacent areas.

One section of this reclaimed area of 120,000 acres, has been put on the market, and is being taken up by a syndicate of experienced sugar men who are quite confident that it will be one of the finest and most productive sugar regions in the world. The soil is of rich alluvial character, heavily charged with humus and vegetable matter. Experiments have shown that this will raise the very best of cane. That which is now un-

der cultivation promises to yield 60 tons to the acre. It makes a quick growth and matures in 12 months. The cane grows so rapidly and makes so rank a growth, that little or no cultivation is necessary,—it simply grows wild. Labor, the difficult problem here, will not worry them there for they are in close touch with the West Indies where there is plenty of Negro labor looking for openings of that kind. Experts declare that refined sugar can be produced there for two cents a pound.

All of which, if true, would seem to give Florida the assurance of being in the near future the leading sugar country of the world. Hawaii had better make hay while the sun shines, for evidently she won't be in it with Florida, when that latter country gets properly going.

There was a big concert at Kapaa on Saturday evening for the benefit of the local Kaahumanu society. In addition to excellent Hawaiian music there were Hawaiian tableau scenes of a novel and interesting character. The Hall was full to overflowing and between \$200 and \$300 were taken in.

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